In case of Army schools, children are admitted on the basis of an admission test organised by the Principals of the schools which is identical for both service and non-service students.

[Translation]

Agreement with Foreign Countries

342. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the salient features of each of the agreements/ memoranda of understanding signed with various countries during the last six months, country-wise;

(b) whether any comprehensive agreements with neighbouring countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka etc. have been signed on various issues; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c) A statement is given below :

Statement

CHINA

1. Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control signed on 29 November, 1996 in New Delhi includes several important confidence building measures and is built upon the Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the line of Actual Control which was signed on 7 September, 1993.
2. The agreement concerning the maintenance of the Consulate General of India in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China signed on 29 November, 1996 in New Delhi provides the legal framework for the maintenance of our Consulate General in Hong Kong after the transfer of sovereignty to People's Republic of China on 30 June, 1997.
3. The Agreement on Cooperation for Combating Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Other Crimes signed on 29 November, 1996 provides for exchange of information and mutual cooperation in combating drug trafficking and other crimes.
4. The Agreement on Maritime Transport signed on 29 November, 1996 in New Delhi provides a framework for the development of maritime traffic between India and China.

MONGOLIA

1. The Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation signed in Ulaan Baatar on 16 September, 1996 provides the framework for expanding trade and economic cooperation between India and Mongolia.
2. The Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture signed on 16 September, 1996 provides the framework for bilateral cooperation in agricultture.
3. The Agreement in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources signed in Ulaan Baatar on 16 September, 1996 provides a framework for bilateral cooperation in geology and mineral resources.

OMAN

1. The Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Commission for Combating Crime signed in Oman on 5 October, 1996 provides for mutual assistance in combating crime through exchange of information/data and assistance in investigation in the areas of trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, international organised crimes including terrorism, illegal activities in the economic field and arms and ammunitions, smuggling of items of historical and cultural value and counterfeiting of travel documents etc.
2. The Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation signed on 5 October, 1996 in Oman provides for cooperation in science and technology through exchange of experts, information and data, holding of seminars and workshops, training and joint research projects.
3. The Agreement on Cooperation in Agriculture and Allied Areas signed on 5 October, 1996 in Oman provides for joint activities in the areas of agricultural research, horticulture, soil conservation, irrigation, dairy development and food production and processing etc.

YEMEN

1. The Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors signed in New Delhi on 7 December, 1996 provides a framework for expanding cooperation in the field of agriculture, desertification and soil conservation. The MOU contains a provision for deputing Indian agricultural experts to Yemen to help draw up a plan of action in this area.
2. The Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology signed in New Delhi on 7 December, 1996 provides not only a mechanism for such cooperation but also an impetus to expand bilateral cooperation in this important area.
3. The Agreement on Joint Business Council signed in New Delhi on 7 December, 1996 provides a

forum for exchange of business information and increased interaction between business representatives of both sides.

SUDAN

1. The Memorandum of Understanding for bilateral cooperation in the field of health signed in New Delhi on 13 October, 1996 enables coperation and Indian assistance to Sudan in the critical areas of primary health care etc.

TUNISIA

1. A Workplan for cooperation in agricultural research for 1996-97 signed in New Delhi in October, 1996 provides for exchange of information and experts and optimum utilisation of agro technology by both the countries.

ISRAEL

1. The Memorandum of Understanding between National Small Industries Corporation of India and Small Business Authority of Israel signed in December, 1996 provides for cooperation in the area of small scale industry. India's expertise and Israel's experience will be placed at the disposal of parties of both countries through the nodal agencies which have signed the Memorandum of Understanding.
2. Agreement on Technical Cooperation between the Governments of India and Israel, for promotion of their mutual technical cooperation, including by exchange of experts and provision of training opportunities, signed on 30.12.1996.
3. Umbrella Agreement on the Development of Cooperation in the field of Industrial & Technological Research and Development, between the two Governments, to identify and facilitate the establishment of joint industrial research and development projects in the fields of industrial research and technological development, signed on 30.12.1996.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

1. The Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology signed on 10 October, 1996 seeks to promote cooperation in the field of science and technology between the two countries.
2. The Agreement on Air Services between India and Slovak Republic signed on 10 October, 1996 provides the framework for future air links between the two countries.

CZECH REPUBLIC

1. The Protocol on Consultations between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Czech Republic signed on 11 October, 1996 provides for regular consultations between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries.
2. The Agreement for Promotion and Protection of Investments signed on 11 October, 1996 provides for mutual guarantees for protection of investments, repatriation of profits and a mechanism for dispute settlement.
3. The Agreement on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education and Science signed on 11 October, 1996 is an umbrella agreement which provides for cooperation between the two countries in the areas of culture, education and science.

POLAND

1. A Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Poland for the period 1997-1999 signed on 7 October, 1996 was concluded within the timeframe of Indo-Polish Cultural Agreement of 1957 and projects specific bilateral exchanges in education and learning, culture & arts, and mass media.
2. The Agreement on Promotion and Protection of investments signed on 7 October, 1996 provides mutual guarantees for protection of investments, repatriation of profits and a dispute settlement mechanism.
3. The Protocol on Consultation between Ministry of External Affairs of India and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland signed on 7 October, 1996 provides for the regular consultations between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries.

SLOVENIA

1. An Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between India and Slovenia was signed on 16 December, 1996. It is an umbrella agreement which provides for cooperation in various cultural fields including organising of cultural festivals in each others' country, exchange of scholars, sports persons, etc.

CROATIA

1. An Agreement on Maritime Transport was signed between India and Croatia on 3 January, 1997, which provides for cooperation between the respective shipping services, and between port authorities of the two countries.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

1. The Agreement between Ministry of Defence of India and the Ministry of Defence of Russian Federation signed on 22 October, 1996 provides for intensifying bilateral cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries.

2. A Protocol on the Third Session of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation was signed on 11 February, 1997. It provided for measures to promote Indo-Russian cooperation in the fields of trade and economy, pharmaceuticals, power, metallurgy, coal, information technology, oil and gas, science and technology, culture and environemnt.

3. An Agreement on Joint Shipping Service was signed between India and Russia on 11 February, 1997. It provided for establishment of joint Shipping Service between a designated port in India and a designated port in Russia, which would help in reducing procedural delays and in ensuring improved transportation of goods between the two countries.

4. A Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Information Technology, providing for mutual certification of each others' products related to IT was signed between India and Russia on 11 February, 1997.

BULGARIA

1. The Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation signed on 4 December, 1996 updates the earlier agreement and provides the necessary framework for intensifying trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

KAZAKSTAN

1. The Agreement for Promotion and Protection of Investments signed in New Delhi on 9 December, 1996 has provisions to promote Indian investments in Kazakstan and reciprocally Kazakstan investments in India as well as to safeguard these investments according to rules and regulations applicable in the two countries.

2. The Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and Capital signed on 9 December, 1996 has provisions to avoid double application of income tax on capital and income of Indian nationals in Kazakstan and reciprocally Kazak nationals in India. The Convention also has provisions to prevent evasion of payment of income tax by nationals of one country who are residents in the other.

3. Protocol on Days of Culture aimed at hosting Days of Indian Culture in Kazakstan and Days of Kazak Culture in India in 1997 and 1998 respectively.

THAILAND

1. The Agreement between the Ministry of Human Resource Development of India and the Thai Ministry of Education signed on 18 October, 1996 provides for making suitable logistics, security and other arrangements for exposition in Thailand of the Holy Relics of the Lord Buddha and a photographic exhibition on the Buddhist sites and shrines in India.

2. Agreement on Cooperation in the field of investment between Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) of India and Board of Investment (BOI) of Thailand signed in New Delhi on 27.1.1997.

LUXEMBOURG

1. A Cultural agreement signed with the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on 12 September, 1996 provides cooperation in several areas of Culture between India and Luxembourg.

PORTUGAL

1. An Air Services Agreement was signed with Portugal in New Delhi in September, 1996 which provides for operation of flights between the two countries by the designated airlines of the two countries.

FINLAND

1. A Protocol on Foreign office consultations signed on 26 November, 1996 institutionalises consultation between the Foreign Offices to promote bilateral relations.

CYPRUS

1. An Agreement on Bilateral Tourism Cooperation was signed in November, 1996 for cooperation in promotion of tourism and related spheres between the two countries.

2. An Agreement on Merchant Shipping between the two countries was signed in February, 1997 which provides for participation by merchant ships of both countries in cargo transportation between the two countries and between third countries.

NORWAY

1. A Memorandum of Understanding between India and Norway on Cooperation in Space Research was signed by Indian Space Research Organisation in November, 1996.

EUROPEAN UNION

1. A Memorandum of Understanding on Economic Cross Cultural Programme was signed on 25 November, 1996 in Brussels between India and European Union, the main objective of the programme is to improve mutual understanding between the two regions by establishing long-

term links between India and European institutions and organisation through networking and exchanges. The main areas of focus will be media, universities and industry.

SEYCHELLES

1. The Agreement on Tourism Cooperation signed on 3 October, 1996 provides for development of tourism between India and Seychelles.

ZIMBABWE

1. The Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation for the development of small scale industries in Zimbabwe signed on 2 November, 1996 stipulates Zimbabwe would provide infrastructural support and India would provide technical expertise, equipment, training and personnel for small industries projects for 3 years.

SENEGAL

1. The Memorandum of Understanding on establishment of Entrepreneurship and Technical Development Centre in Senegal signed on 3 November, 1996 states that Senegal would provide infrastructural support and India would provide technical expertise, equipment, training and personnel for small industries projects for 3 years.
2. Agreement on Establishment of the Joint Commission for Economic, Technical, Political & Cultural Cooperation (signed on 16.2.1997).
3. MOU for the Establishment of an Agricultural Development Project in Senegal. (signed on 16.2.1997).

NAMIBIA

1. Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and Capital Gains (signed on 15.2.1997).

TANZANIA

1. MOU on Technical Cooperation in the field of Posts and Telecommunications (signed on 12.12.1996).

MAURITIUS

1. Agreement for a line of credit of US$ 3 million to finance imports by Mauritius of capital goods, consumer durables and consultancy services from India (signed on 5.2.1997).

AUSTRALIA

1. MOU for cooperation in the field of Science and Technology, signed at New Delhi on 2.11.1996.

MICRONESIA

1. Protocols for Establishment of Diplomatic and Consular Relations between India and the Federated States of Micronesia, signed at Tokyo on 29.11.1996. Indian Ambassador in Tokyo will be envoy to Micronesia.

INDONESIA

1. Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) signed on 20.12.1996 in Jakarta under Cultural Agreement signed in 1972.

SOUTH AFRICA

1. The Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation signed on 4 December, 1996 provides that enterprises taxed in one country would not be taxed again in the other country.
2. The Agreement on Cultural Cooperation signed on 4 December, 1996 is an umbrella agreement on cooperation in education, culture, mass media etc.
3. A Memorandum of Understanding in the field of defence equipment signed on 4 December, 1996 provides for cooperation in defence related issues.

HAITI

1. A Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries signed on 27 September, 1996 on establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

CUBA

1. Cooperation Programme signed in New Delhi on 22 November, 1996 for the year 1997-98 in the field of science and technology including exchange of scientific material, scientists and training.
2. Cooperation Programme signed on 22 November, 1996 in New Delhi for cooperation in the field of agricultural research and training of Cuban nationals.
3. Cooperation Programme signed on 22 November, 1996 in New Delhi for cooperation in the field of non-conventional energy sources and training of Cuban personnel in this field.
4. Memorandum of Understanding signed in Havana on 5 February, 1997 for cooperation and collaboration in the field of health and joint ventures in manufacture of Cuban vaccines and other drugs.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

1. Agreement on technical cooperation in various fields and training of Trinidad & Tobago personnel

under ITEC programme of MEA signed in New Delhi on 27 January, 1997.

2. Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation and assistance in the field of low housing signed in New Delhi on 27 January, 1997. An exhibition on low housing technology to be arranged in Trinidad & Tobago and transfer of technology in low cost housing.

3. Two Memorandums of Understanding on cooperation for the development of small scale industries in Trinidad & Tobago and provision of training to their personnel signed in New Delhi on 27 January, 1997.

4. Trade agreement to consolidate, strengthen and diversify trade relations between the two countries on the basis of Most Favoured Nation treatment signed in New Delhi on 27 January, 1997.

5. A Memorandum of Understanding on bilateral consultations between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries to review all aspects of bilateral relations and exchange views on international issues of mutual interest signed in New Delhi on 27 January, 1997.

6. Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of agricultural research and training of Trinidad & Tobago personnel at various agricultural institutes and deputation of experts to Trinidad & Tobago signed in New Delhi on 27 January, 1997.

BANGLADESH

1. An Indo-Bangladesh Treaty on Sharing of Ganga Waters was signed on December 12, 1996 which provides a detailed formula for sharing of the water flow during the lean season and more specifically between March 1 and May 10. The Treaty is for 30 years but with provision for mandatory reviews after five year intervals. Either side can also call for a review after two years.

SRI LANKA

1. An Agreement for the Promotion and Protection of Investments was signed between the two countries during the Third Session of the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission held in Colombo from January 19 to 22, 1997.

2. During the same Joint Commission Meeting, an Agreement was also signed to release the second tranche of US$ 15 million of the line of credit extended to Sri Lanka earlier in January 1996. This credit would be available to Sri Lanka for import of both goods and services from India.

3. The two countries also signed a Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 1996, 1997 and 1998 and also a programme of cooperation in the field of science and technology during the Joint Commission Meeting.

[English]

Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal

343. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal had declared its award during 1979 covering all matters connected with the heights of major dams; Narmada Sagar, Sardar Sarovar etc. has been reopened by the Supreme Court of India;

(b) the present situation in regard to the construction of the Sardar Sarovar dam in Gujarat; and

(c) the stipulated height and upto which height, the construction has been completed ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) In the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 319 of 1994 filed in the Supreme Court of India by the Narmada Bachao Andolan, the height of Sardar Sarovar Dam has been mentioned as one of the issues for consideration.

(b) and (c) At present, the lowest block level upto which the Sardar Sarover Dam has been raised is EL 81.5 metres against the stipulated full reservoir level of 138.68 metres as per the Award of Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal.

Passport Office, Bangalore

344. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of passport applications pending with the Passport Office at Bangalore as on December 31, 1996;

(b) the number of passports issued during the last three years and as on December 31, 1996;

(c) whether the said office has sufficient staff to clear the workload; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken to depute sufficient number of employees in the Passport Office at Bangalore ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) 6,600 Passport applications were pending with the Passport Office at Bangalore on December 31, 1996. Of these, 703 were pending for more than one month.